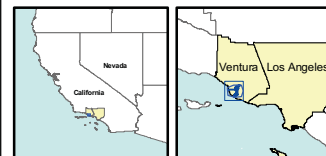






- Milepost
- Santa Barbara Channel Alternative/
Mandalay Shore Crossing/
Gonzales Road Pipeline
- HDB Alignment
- 1 Potential Habitat: W. Snowy Plover
- 2 Potential Habitat: California Tern
- 3 Potential Habitat: Belding's
Savannah Sparrow
- 4 Potential Habitat: California Tern

- Construction Footprint
- Metering Station



500 250 0 500 1,000
Feet

NAD83 CA Stateplane Zone V (Feet)

CABRILLO PORT LNG DEEPWATER PORT

Figure 4.8-4c

Potential Locations of Suitable
Habitat for
Western Snowy Plover
California Least Tern
Belding's Savannah Sparrow
Least Bell's Vireo,
Ventura County

USFWS protocols for survey methods could not all be met in the June/July 2005 surveys; however, sufficient data were gathered to delineate suitable habitat in the vicinity and to document snowy plover nesting along the ROW (see Figure 4.8-3a above). However, for purposes of this analysis, the species is assumed to be present along the ROW, the Applicant would be required to avoid disturbing nesting birds by conducting construction activities outside the nesting season (March through September, per CDFG) and follow the Applicant and mitigation measures identified in Section 4.8.4—specifically, AM TerrBio-2b, AM TerrBio-2c, AM TerrBio-2d, and MM TerrBio-5a. Short-term impacts from construction noise and lights would not be considered significant because species using the area outside of the nesting and fledging season appear to have become acclimated to the noise and light generated by the operations of the Reliant Energy Mandalay Generating Station. Therefore, the proposed Project may affect but would not likely adversely affect this species or its proposed critical habitat.

California Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*) – Federal Endangered

In the Southern California Bight, California brown pelicans are known to nest on Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands. At these Channel Islands, breeding generally takes place from March through early August; fledging takes place approximately 13 weeks later. No critical habitat has been established for this species. The California brown pelican is common in the Southern California Bight year-round and is seen throughout the region and within and near the proposed Project site. The mean at-sea density (birds per 0.4 square miles [1.0 square km]) throughout the proposed Project area was estimated to be 0.3 pelicans per 0.4 square mile (1.0 square km) in July and December. Therefore, the proposed Project may affect but would not likely adversely affect this species.

California Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*) – Federal Endangered

USFWS protocols for survey methods could not all be met in the June/July 2005 surveys; however, sufficient data were gathered to delineate habitat and the potential existence of the species in the ROW (see Figure 4.8-4a above). Suitable habitat was found for the California least tern at the Reliant Ormond Beach Generating Station; however, no specific surveys were conducted on Ormond Beach so as to avoid any disturbance to the documented nesting birds.

The 2005 survey documented nesting habitat from Harbor Road east of the dunes until where the ROW heads east on Gonzales Road. Because suitable habitat exists in the vicinity of the ROW and California least terns have been documented nesting along the ROW, the species is, for purposes of this analysis, assumed to be present along the ROW. The California least tern is also designated as a fully protected species under California Fish and Game Code § 3511, which prohibits take or possession of this species at any time. No take authorizations for this species are available from the State of California. The Applicant would be required to avoid disturbing nesting birds by conducting construction activities outside the nesting season (March through September, per CDFG) and by following the Applicant and mitigation measures

identified in Section 4.8.4—specifically AM TerrBio-2b, AM TerrBio-2c, AM TerrBio-2d, AM TerrBio-2e, and MM TerrBio-2e. Short-term impacts from construction noise and lights would not be considered significant because the species using the area outside of the nesting and fledging season appear to have become acclimated to the noise and light generated by the operations of the Reliant Energy Mandalay Generating Station. Therefore, the proposed Project may affect but would not likely adversely affect this species.

Unarmored Threespine Stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*) – Federal Endangered; State Endangered

The USFWS has listed the unarmored threespine stickleback as potentially being present in the area; however, no suitable habitat for this species is crossed by the proposed Center Road Pipeline Route. See Section 4.8.1.3 for further analysis of this species.

Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) – Federal Endangered; Proposed Critical Habitat

The USFWS has listed the coastal California gnatcatcher as potentially being present in the area; however, no suitable habitat for this species is crossed by the proposed Center Road Pipeline Route. See Section 4.8.1.3 for further analysis of this species.

California Special Status Species

Special status species surveys were performed along all of the proposed pipeline routes and associated facilities. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) lists numerous special status species and provides a map of their general locations. The CNDDDB is a natural heritage program that inventories the status and locations of rare plants and animals in California. The CNDDDB database is maintained by the staff at the CDFG and other partners working with the agency to identify and map locations of special status species.

Tables 4.8-3a and 4.8-3b (pages 4.8-104 and 4.8-106) include all flora and fauna along the Center Road Pipeline route identified by the CNDDDB. Plant species that occur in the coastal zone near MP 0.0 are salt marsh bird's beak (*Cordylanthus maritimus* ssp. *maritimus*), Coulter's goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*), and red sand verbena (*Abronia maritima*). The CNDDDB-listed insects that occur near MP 0.0 are globose dune beetle (*Coelus globosus*) and salt marsh skippers (*Panoquina errans*). The CNDDDB-listed bird species that occur near MP 0.0 are California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*), western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*), California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*), elegant tern (*Sterna elegans*), Belding's savannah sparrow (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*). The tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) is also a CNDDDB-listed species that occurs near MP 0.0.

Wintering waterfowl and wintering burrowing owl surveys were performed in December 2004. Surveys were conducted from a vehicle and on foot encompassing 492 feet (150

m) on each side of the proposed pipeline route. The wintering burrowing owl surveys did not identify any owls or evidence of owls along the ROW. The waterfowl survey observed seven species along the Ormond Beach ROW associated with the shallow marshes, lagoons, and wetland habitat. Table 4.8-4 (page 4.8-113) presents the locations of the three bird species identified during the survey.

Special status species surveys performed along the pipeline route for the Belding's savannah sparrow, coastal California gnatcatcher, western snowy plover and California least tern identified suitable habitat for three species—the Belding's savannah sparrow, western snowy plover, and California least tern—at the Reliant Ormond Beach Generating Station site. The habitat found at the Reliant Ormond Beach Generating Station shore crossing consists of fragmented wetlands, lagoons, marshes, and agricultural fields. No suitable habitat for the coastal California gnatcatcher occurs along the ROW, and no Belding's savannah sparrows were observed during the 2005 survey. No surveys were conducted for the western snowy plover or the California least tern during the 2005 survey to avoid any disturbance to the documented nesting birds on Ormond Beach.

Special status plant surveys conducted in the spring and summer of 2005 along the Center Road Pipeline did not observe any of the species listed in Table 4.8-3a (page 4.8-104). Table 4.8-5 (page 4.8-115) lists the species that were observed during field surveys along the Center Road Pipeline, the Line 225 Pipeline Loop and their alternatives.

4.8.1.2 Oxnard Plain

The proposed Center Road Pipeline and alternatives traverse the Oxnard Plain for 13.6 miles (21.8 km) to 15.0 miles (24.1 km) and terminate at the Center Road Valve Station, passing through agricultural fields and urban residential, commercial, and industrial areas.

Surface Water Features

Tables 4.8-2a and 4.8-2b (pages 4.8-98 and 4.8-99) identify surface water features crossed by the proposed and alternative pipeline routes. The proposed and alternative routes would cross agricultural drainages and flood control channels in the Oxnard Plain. The agricultural drainages are designed and maintained to provide irrigation water; these are privately owned and operated and may be under the jurisdiction of the USACE and subject to control by Section 404 of the CWA. Flow conditions depend on the type of crop currently in production. Maintenance of the agricultural drainages includes periodic dredging to deepen or reshape the channel and vegetation control; therefore, these drainages do not provide long-term suitable habitat for native aquatic resources. The flood control channels crossed by the proposed Project are concrete-lined. The Ventura County Watershed Protection Agency is responsible for maintaining flood control channels. Along the proposed Center Road Pipeline route, 13 features were identified as potentially jurisdictional ocean waters, wetlands or other waters of the United States (see Table 4.8-2b [page 4.8-99]). One delineated feature, CRALT-2, is

not considered jurisdictional; therefore it is not included in the count of potentially jurisdictional features.

Vegetation and Wetlands

Field surveys were completed in 2004 and 2005 to identify plant communities and special status species within an 80-foot (24.4 m) wide corridor extending up to 1,000 feet (305 m) from the center of the pipeline ROW. The purpose of the special status plant surveys was to identify and determine the potential occurrence within the pipeline ROW of special status plants recognized by the Federal and State ESA or the CNPS.

Vegetative communities identified in the Oxnard Plain within 1,000 feet (305 m) of the pipeline routes included agricultural and developed lands, non-native grasslands, southern foredunes, tree rows, and exotic mixed riparian forest.

Developed areas include those that have been graded or otherwise physically altered such that conditions no longer exist to support native vegetation.

Non-native grasslands are often comprised of annual grasses, and are likely to be dominated by several species of grasses that have evolved to coexist with human agricultural practices: slender oat (*Avena barbata*), wild oat (*Avena fatua*), fox tail chess (*Bromus madritensis*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), barley (*Hordeum* spp.), rye grass (*Lolium multiflorum*), English ryegrass (*Lolium perrene*), rat-tail fescue (*Vulpia myuros*), and Mediterranean schismus (*Schismus barbatus*).

Southern foredune vegetation is typically dominated by perennial species, including succulents and species with slightly woody stems. Sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*), saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), ambrosia (*Ambrosia ambrosioides*) and sand verbena (*Abronia villosa*) are typical on undisturbed dune habitat. On disturbed dunes, non-native species such as hottentot-fig can dominate.

The vegetation class termed “tree rows” indicates an orchard or otherwise planted woody vegetation.

Mixed riparian forests have an inundation frequency and duration intermediate between cottonwood and valley oak riparian forest. Exotic mixed riparian forest includes non-native species. Mixed riparian forests are highly diverse and structurally complex, and are considered transitional between cottonwood riparian and valley oak riparian forest communities. Dominant canopy species include Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), Goodding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*), yellow willow (*Salix lutea*), California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), and California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*). The understory typically includes California box elder (*Acer negundo*), poison-oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*). The California grape vine (*Vitis californica*) often envelopes trees and shrubs, giving the forest a jungle-like appearance.

Table 4.8-1 (page 4.8-96) lists the locations of the vegetation communities identified in the Oxnard Plain along the Center Road Pipeline route and its alternatives. Table 4.8-6 (page 4.8-133) identifies tree species and the maximum linear feet that may occur within the Center Road Pipeline route and its alternatives. The tree rows have been identified and delineated because they are important habitat for nesting birds and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), which has the potential to occur in eucalyptus groves throughout the Project area. Appropriate winter roost sites exist within groves of eucalyptus throughout the Oxnard Plain. Monarch butterflies are also reported from Point Mugu State Park and the “Blue Gum Grove” site just east of Pleasant Valley Road in the Project vicinity. Orchards have been identified within the proposed expansion of the Center Road Valve Station, which provided limited opportunities for nesting birds or other wildlife habitat due to disturbance caused by farming operations and harvesting practices.

Wildlife and Aquatic Species

The aquatic features that are near the Project and occur in the Oxnard Plain include the Mugu Lagoon, agricultural drainages, and the Beardsley Wash-Revolon Slough Complex. A 1998 bioassessment study of Mugu Lagoon documented the presence of the Federal endangered tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*), arrow goby, cheekspot goby, diamond turbot, staghorn sculpin, mullet, topsmelt, and longjaw mudsucker (*Gillichthys mirabilis*) (Entrix 2004c). However, the Navy reports that tidewater goby is not found in Mugu Lagoon (U.S. Navy 2006). Two endangered fish species that occur in the Oxnard Plain are the Federal endangered steelhead (*Onchoryncus mykiss irideus*) Southern California Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU), and the Federal/State endangered unarmored threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*) (California Resources Agency 2004). The unarmored threespine stickleback is also a CDFG fully protected species.

Two drainages that are tidally influenced are the agricultural drainage at MP 0.25 and the Beardsley Wash-Revolon Slough Complex at MP 10.5, which empties into Mugu Lagoon via Calleguas Creek. The creek’s watershed drains nearly 350 square miles (907 square km) of Ventura County with its outflow into Mugu Lagoon at NBVC Point Mugu. Despite hydraulic connection to Calleguas Creek and Mugu Lagoon, the proposed Project crosses these drainages approximately 8 miles (12.9 km) upstream from the Pacific Ocean, which leaves little possibility for the occurrence of estuarine species in the proposed Project area, including the endangered steelhead. Aquatic resources using the agricultural and flood control drainages may include estuarine fish species in the saltwater/freshwater mixing zone and exotic fish and amphibian species that are adaptable to ongoing disturbances. Native fish species enter these drainages only when there is a hydraulic connection to a natural water body, adequate aquatic habitat, and no migration barriers. A fish migration barrier exists within Revolon Slough, which is connected to Calleguas Creek.

Common mammals that are expected be found within the Oxnard Plain and along the pipeline ROW include the California ground squirrel, house mouse, striped skunk, raccoons, opossum, and coyote. The more common bird species that may occur

include the starling, American crow, American robin, and house finch. Raptors and turkey vultures are known to use the tree rows for nesting and roosting sites. Tree rows may also provide habitat to support monarch butterflies.

Special Status Species

Federally Listed Species

Federally listed threatened and endangered species potentially found in the Oxnard Plain are described below.

Southern Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) – Federal Endangered

The southern steelhead has been identified as an ESU. The ESU includes all naturally spawned populations of steelhead (and their progeny) from the Santa Maria River to Malibu Creek (see Figure 4.8-4d). Steelhead occur in the Oxnard Plain, but the closest that the species has been documented is in a portion Revolon Slough not traversed by any part of the proposed Project. Steelhead have not been identified in the Santa Clara River east of Piru Creek. Therefore, based on the low likelihood of occurrence, the proposed Project would not adversely affect this species.

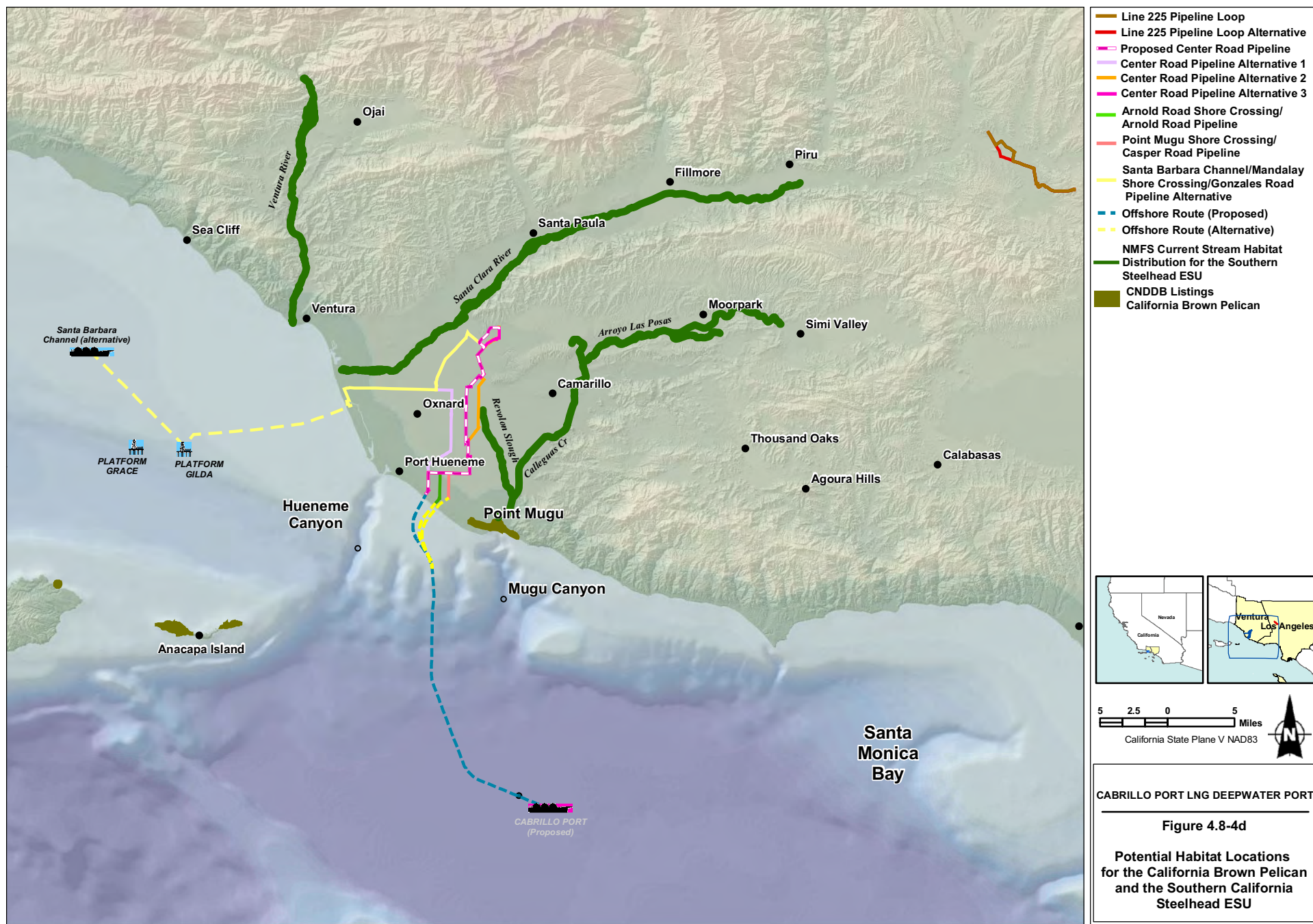
Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*) – Federal Candidate

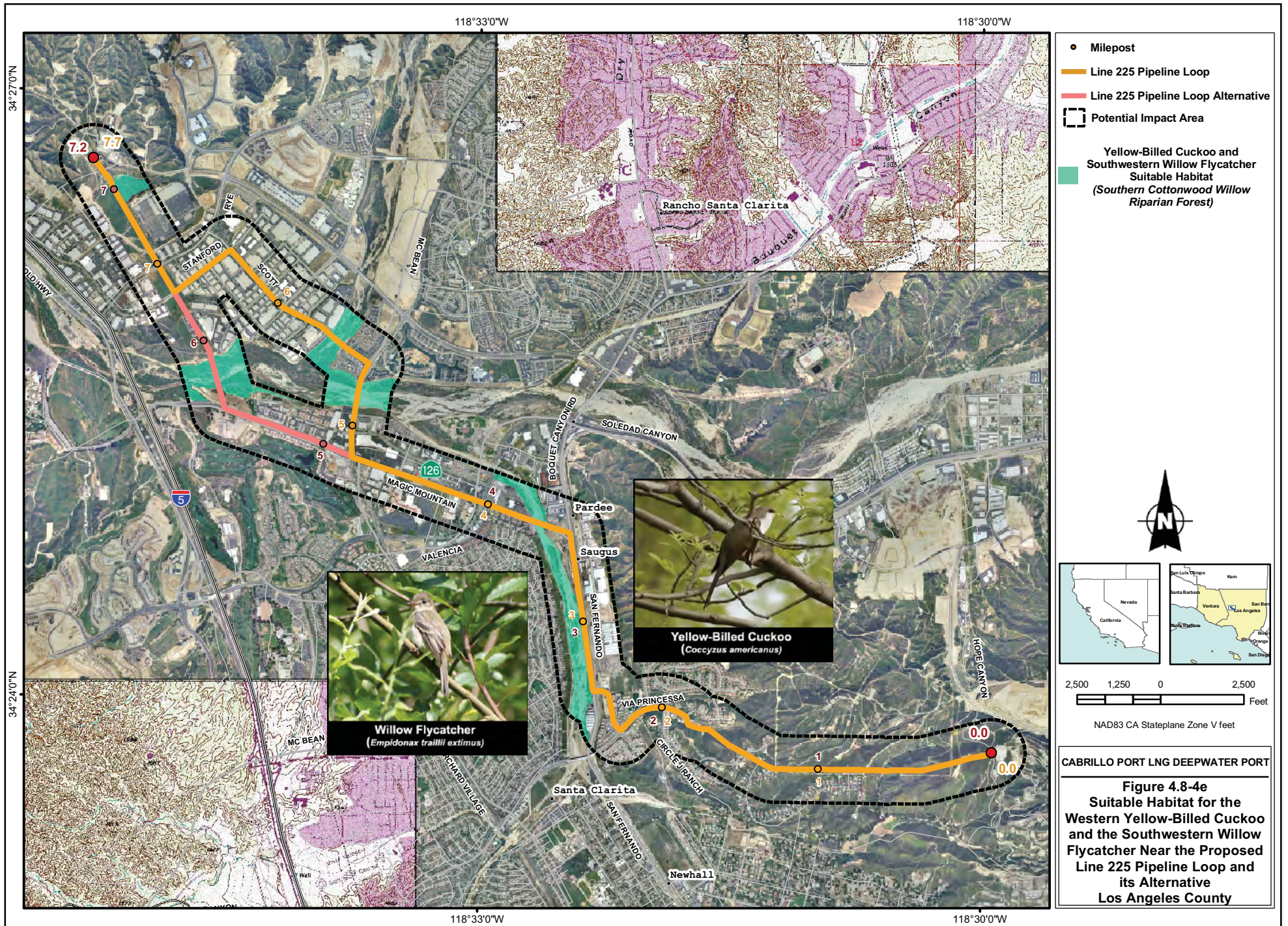
Individuals have been documented near the mouth of the Santa Clara River within the Line 225 Pipeline Loop route from MP 0.0 to MP 7.2 (see Figure 4.8-4e). Because suitable habitat exists along this pipeline route, it is assumed, for purposes of this analysis, that the cuckoos are present within the ROW. To protect this species, the Applicant would be required to avoid construction during the nesting season (mid-May to mid-August) and follow the Applicant and mitigation measures identified in Section 4.8.4—specifically AM TerrBio-2b, AM TerrBio-2c, AM TerrBio-2d, AM TerrBio-2e, and MM TerrBio-5a. Therefore, the proposed Project may affect but would not likely adversely affect this species.

California Special Status Species

California special status species potentially found in the Oxnard Plain are described below.

The CNDDB identified several special status species that may occur in the Oxnard Plain. Tables 4.8-3a and 4.8-3b (pages 4.8-104 and 4.8-106) provide information regarding the habitats used by these species and the potential for occurrence along the pipeline ROWs that traverse the Oxnard Plain.





The Coulter's goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*) listed as rare by the CNPS is typically found in the upper end of tidal inundation; however, the species has been documented in inland areas on alkaline soils (see Figure 4.8-3a above). The species has also been found growing in mesic grasslands near vernal pools (Sierra Club 2004). Plant surveys completed in 2004 and 2005 did not identify habitat suitable for the Coulter's goldfields along the preferred Center Road Pipeline route or identify the species in the remainder of the ROW (see Table 4.8-5 [page 4.8-115]).

The wintering waterfowl and burrowing owls surveys did not observe any individuals along this segment of the ROW that traverses the Oxnard Plain.

4.8.1.3 Santa Clarita Valley

The proposed Line 225 Pipeline Loop route and its alternative would traverse the Santa Clarita Valley for 7.7 miles (12.4 km) and cross the Santa Clara River, the South Fork Santa Clara River, and San Francisquito Creek. The pipeline would cross Santa Clara River at the McBean Parkway Bridge and San Francisquito Creek at the Avenue Scott Bridge by hanging underneath the open girder bridges. The pipeline across the South Fork Santa Clara River at the Magic Mountain Parkway Bridge would be installed inside a closed girder bridge. No equipment would enter the stream channel during installation of the pipeline in the Magic Mountain Parkway Bridge.

The pipeline would span the South Fork Santa Clara River near the intersection of Magic Mountain Parkway and San Fernando Road (State Route 126). At this crossing, the 30-inch (0.76 m) gas pipeline would be installed within a 36-inch (0.9 m) diameter casing, which would be installed in an open cell located in the Magic Mountain Parkway Bridge. Depending on final engineering design, instead of crossing the Santa Clara River within the bridge, HDD may be employed. The HDD crossing would be approximately 2,000 feet (610 m) long. This construction method would require two staging areas, one on each side of the river; the entry point staging area would measure approximately 200 feet by 400 feet (61 m by 122 m) and the exit point staging area would measure approximately 150 feet by 2,000 feet (46 m by 610 m). Other crossings such as at several concrete-lined flood control channels may require using existing road bridges, spanning over the open channel, or using slick boring beneath the channel. Additional details on the installation method are presented in Section 2.7.2, "Crossing Techniques." Additionally, Tables 4.18-5 and 4.18-6 in Section 4.18.4 provide waterbody crossing methods specific to each waterbody.

Vegetation and Wetlands

The pipeline routes traverse developed lands, non-native grasslands, Riversidian sage scrub, mulefat scrub, southern cottonwood-willow riparian forest, and valley oak woodlands.

Developed areas include areas that have been graded or otherwise physically altered such that conditions no longer exist to support native vegetation.

Non-native grasslands are often comprised of annual grasses, and are likely to be dominated by several species of grasses that have evolved to coexist with human agricultural practices: slender oat (*Avena barbata*), wild oat (*Avena fatua*), fox tail chess (*Bromus madritensis*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), barley (*Hordeum* spp.), rye grass (*Lolium multiflorum*), English ryegrass (*Lolium perrene*), rat-tail fescue (*Vulpia myuros*), and Mediterranean schismus (*Schismus barbatus*).

Riversidian sage scrub is a type of coastal sage scrub. Characteristic plant species include California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum foliolosum*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and white sage (*Salvia apiana*). Shrubs are often spaced out, providing an open canopy that allows interspersed growth of grasses, forbs, and succulents.

Mulefat scrub is dominated by mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) which forms a continuous canopy with sparse ground layer. It occupies habitats that are seasonally flooded or saturated, usually along canyon bottoms, irrigation ditches, or stream channels. Mulefat scrub can be found on banks and floodplain terraces associated with rivers following the flood events.

Southern cottonwood-willow riparian forests are tall, open, broadleafed winter-deciduous riparian forests situated on sub-irrigated and frequently overflowed lands along rivers and streams. The dominant species require moist, bare mineral soil for germination and establishment. This is provided after flood waters recede, leading to uniform-aged stands. Dominant species include Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), Black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), and several tree willows (*Salix* spp.). Understories usually are comprised of shrubby willows.

Valley oak woodland varies from sparse tree distribution to partially closed canopies dominated by winter-deciduous broad-leaved species such as: California sycamore, Hinds black walnut (*Juglans hindsii*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*), boxelder (*Acer negundo*) and blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*). Understories typically consist of shrub species such as: poison-oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), blue elder (*Sambucus caerulea*), California wild grape (*Vitis californica*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), California coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*) and California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*). Ground cover consists of wild oats (*Avena fatua*), brome (*Bromus* spp.), barley (*Elyhordeum* spp. and *Hordeum* spp.), ryegrass (*Lolium* spp.) and needlegrass (*Achnatherum* spp. and *Nassella* spp.).

Table 4.8-7 (page 4.8-137) summarizes the vegetation communities found along the Line 225 Pipeline Loop and its alternative. Plant communities identified within 1,000 feet (305 m) of the proposed pipeline ROWs include developed land, non-native grassland, valley oak woodland, Riversidian sage scrub, southern cottonwood-willow riparian forest, and mulefat scrub.

In addition to the plant surveys, an oak tree survey was conducted to determine whether any trees would need to be removed to install the pipeline within the ROW. The City of

Santa Clarita has an oak tree ordinance that requires approval prior to removal of trees if avoidance is not possible. The oak tree survey identified trees within an 80-foot corridor of the pipeline centerline. Two species of oak trees were identified within the survey corridor, the Valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) and the Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). Tables 4.8-8a and 4.8-8b (pages 4.8-138 and 4.8-140) identify the location of coast live oak and oak trees, respectively, and the estimated distance from the Line 225 Pipeline Loop centerline. Figure 4.8-5 presents the vegetation communities and Figure 4.8-6 sensitive vegetation communities along the proposed pipeline route and its alternative in Los Angeles County documented during the field surveys.

Los Angeles County has designated five areas in the Santa Clarita Valley as significant ecological areas (SEAs). The County considers the areas ecologically fragile lands that are valuable as habitat for plant and animal communities. The proposed Line 225 Pipeline Loop would cross the SEA for the Santa Clara River and San Francisquito Canyon. The Santa Clara River is the largest SEA and supports wetlands, coastal sage scrub, oak woodland, and riparian woodlands. The Santa Clara River represents the last major unchannelized river in Los Angeles County (City of Santa Clarita 2004a).

The San Francisquito Canyon SEA was established by the county to preserve habitat associated with the unarmored threespine stickleback, a Federal endangered species and State-listed endangered and fully protected species (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*). The San Francisquito Canyon SEA supports riparian vegetation along the canyon streambed channel. Grasslands and chaparral habitat are found on the walls of the canyon.

In Los Angeles County, the wetland delineation identified nine potential jurisdictional features under Section 404 of the CWA along the proposed Line 225 Loop Pipeline route and its alternative. These features include the Santa Clara River, the South Fork Santa Clara River, San Francisquito Creek, two natural dry washes, and three concrete-lined channels. The rivers and the creek are characterized by low-gradient channels with large, active floodplains. The substrate consists almost entirely of sand. The reaches of these drainages that exist within the proposed Project ROW are intermittent in the dry season but experience flow during the rainy season. A total of 3.8 acres (1.5 ha) of wetlands and 7.7 acres (3.1 ha) of other waters of the United States were delineated along the proposed pipeline route. Of these, a total of 1.0 acre (0.40 ha) of other waters of the United States would be affected during construction. Most of the wetlands or other waters delineated are associated with three major waterbody crossings (South Fork Santa Clara River, Santa Clara River, and San Francisquito Creek), which would be crossed under the bed of the waterbody or within existing pipe bridges. The proposed crossing method would minimize or avoid impacts on those wetland and water features.

Wildlife and Aquatic Species

The quality of habitat occurring within the Santa Clarita Valley varies. High-quality habitat is found within the Santa Clara River and San Francisquito Canyon, with lower-quality habitat occurring in developed land. The proposed Line 225 Pipeline Loop

would traverse the Santa Clara River and San Francisquito Canyon habitat that is considered high-quality habitat. The remaining pipeline ROW would traverse moderate-quality habitat for wildlife and aquatic species because of the limited habitat available to support wildlife. The quality of habitat was based on field surveys, review of existing literature, potential to support sensitive species, and surrounding land uses.

Common mammals expected to occur along the pipeline ROW include the California ground squirrel, striped skunk, raccoons, opossum, coyote, and mule deer. Amphibians and reptiles may include the Western fence lizard, garter snake, California mountain kingsnake, and Pacific tree frog.

The more common bird species that may occur include the mourning dove, northern flicker, western scrub jay, northern mockingbird, Brewer's blackbird, red-tailed hawk, and turkey vulture. Table 4.8-4 (page 4.8-113) lists birds observed during the winter waterfowl and burrowing owl surveys along the Center Road Pipeline and its alternatives and Line 225 Pipeline Loop and its alternative).

Federally Listed Species

Federally listed species identified by the USFWS (2005) to be in the vicinity of the Project area are described below.

Slender-horned Spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*) – Federal Endangered; State Endangered

Historical records from the CNDDDB listed the slender-horned spineflower as occurring throughout the potential Project area in 1937. Surveys done in 1979 and 1983 did not locate the populations identified in the 1937 surveys. Most areas identified in the historical surveys have since been developed, reducing the species' potential for occurrence along the ROW. The species was not observed during the 2005 spring and summer plant surveys; nevertheless, the Applicant would be required to undertake spring surveys for this species and include any avoidance and/or mitigations in the Biological Resources Mitigation Implementation and Monitoring Plan (BRMIMP) (see Section 4.8.4—specifically AM TerrBio-2b, AM TerrBio-2c, AM TerrBio-2d, AM TerrBio-2e, and AM TerrBio-2a). Therefore, given the low likelihood of occurrence and the measures identified above, the proposed Project may affect but would not likely adversely affect this species.

San Fernando Valley Spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *Fernandina*) – Federal Candidate; State Endangered

A population of the San Fernando Valley spineflower has been documented southwest of MP 5.7 of the Line 225 Pipeline Loop Alternative (see Figure 4.8-7). The species has also been documented approximately 0.6 mile (1 km) north of the proposed Line 225 Pipeline Loop at the end of the Newhall Ranch Road. The species was not observed during the 2005 spring or summer plant surveys. However, the Applicant would be required to undertake spring surveys for this species and include any avoidance and/or